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## **INDIANA SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT/SGO PROGRAM**

### **Parent Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1) What is the Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) program?**

Certified Scholarship Granting Organizations provide scholarships to income eligible students to offset tuition costs at partnering schools. SGOs are part of the School Scholarship Tax Credit Program. Qualified SGOs receive funding for scholarships from private, charitable donations. Those who have donated to an SGO approved by the Department of Education will then be eligible to take advantage of a 50 percent credit against their individual or corporation state-tax liability.

#### **2) Who are the participating SGOs?**

There are five participating SGOs:

- Elkhart County Community Foundation
- Institute for Quality Education, Inc (Formerly Educational Choice Charitable Trust)
- School Scholarship Granting Organization of Northeast Indiana, Inc.
- Sagamore Institute Scholarships for Education Choice
- The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Indiana, Inc.

Contact information for each SGO is available on the School Scholarship Program website at:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/choice/school-scholarships>

#### **3) What are the student-based requirements for an SGO scholarship?**

The student must be a member of a household with an income below 200% of amount to qualify for Reduced Lunch. (IC 20-51-1-5)

SGO Program Annual Income Limits by Household Size 2016-2017*	
Persons in Household	200% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility
1	\$43,956
2	\$59,274
3	\$74,592
4	\$89,910
5	\$105,228
6	\$120,546
7	\$135,901
8	\$151,293
*For a household size of nine (9) or more, add \$15,392 to the annual limit for each additional household member.	

**4) What schools participate?**

Interested schools partner with a specific SGO. A list of participating schools along with the partnering SGO can be found on the School Scholarship Program website at:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/choice/school-scholarships>

**5) How do I apply for an SGO award for my student?**

To apply for an SGO award you should contact the participating school you are interested in having your student utilize the SGO award to attend. The school will work with you to complete the SGO application.

**6) What is the minimum SGO award amount?**

There is no minimum amount that an SGO can award to an eligible student. However, an SGO award must be at least five hundred dollars (\$500) in order for that student, or the student's sibling, to qualify later for a Choice Scholarship under the Previous SGO Award Pathway. This rule only applies to a student or a sibling of the student who receives an SGO award for the first time after June 30, 2013 and otherwise meets the income eligibility requirements of the program.

**7) Are vouchers and SGO scholarships the same?**

No. The Choice Scholarship Program, which is commonly referred to as the voucher program, provides state funded scholarships to eligible Indiana students to offset tuition costs at participating schools. SGO scholarships are funded by private, charitable donations and awarded by a certified SGO to eligible students.

**8) Can a student who receives an SGO scholarship also receive a Choice Scholarship?**

Yes. A student who meets the requirements for a Choice Scholarship may also qualify for an SGO scholarship in the same year provided that the combination of the two does not exceed tuition and fees.

**9) Does household income need to be re-verified by the SGO for students that are reapplying?**

Yes, household income must be verified by the SGO every year.